

June 3, 2013

The Hon. Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston
1 City Hall Square, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02201-2013

Mr. Roderick Fraser, Fire Commissioner
Boston Fire Headquarters
115 Southamptton Street
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Mayor Menino and Commissioner Fraser:

Please accept this letter as my formal letter of resignation. While I have privately informed both of you of my intention to resign as Chief of the Boston Fire Department effective June 7, 2013, I want to emphasize my sincere and everlasting appreciation to each of you for the courage you showed appointing me Chief even though I came from outside the City of Boston Fire Department. I also want to thank you for the support and encouragement you have each given me throughout my tenure as Chief. Both of you, on countless occasions, have resisted both private and public efforts to undermine my authority and to compromise my ability to carry out the mission you each made clear to me from the outset. That mission was to modernize the Boston Fire Department to better carry out its duty to serve and protect the lives and property of the citizens of Boston while simultaneously having due regard for the lives and safety of the members of the Department. I believe it fair to say that your selection of me as Chief never had the support of a number of members of the Department who preferred that the Chief be selected from within the ranks of the Department itself. I think it is also fair to say that unfortunately a vocal and aggressive minority of the members of the Department did not support our efforts. As you know, while I remained committed to our mission, and have greatly appreciated your support, the baseless attacks by the Deputy Chiefs, especially their actions of making this a matter of public debate by leaking their letter of April 26th to the press, has made it impossible for me to continue to do my job. The changes we have implemented, and those that are left, require the active support of the Deputy Chiefs; we cannot do it alone and, especially, I cannot do my job when their primary focus is on attacking me personally and misrepresenting my actions and our mission.

As of close of business, Friday, June 7, 2013, my personal effort to improve and modernize the Boston Fire Department will be over.

There is nothing in this life or in any profession, particularly in the fire service, that is constant. Instead, technology and advances in science mean that traditions of the fire service at a subsequent time must always be constantly reevaluated and changed if necessary in light of the present. I believe I did my best to promote policies within the Boston Fire Department that safeguard the lives and safety of both firefighters and the citizens of this wonderful city. I enjoyed the support of a great Mayor and Fire Commissioner and I did my very best to make and support the changes I thought were necessary.

I wish each of you, the City and the Department nothing but future success. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve Abaira, M.A., CFO, MIFireE

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Chief of Department
Boston Fire Department